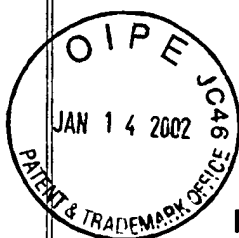


1646



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 02481.1671-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Franz-Josef RUBRÖDER et al.

Application No.: 09/991,964

Filed: November 21, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR THE STABILIZATION
OF PROTEINS IN COMPLEX
MIXTURES DURING THEIR STORAGE
IN AQUEOUS SOLVENTS

Group Art Unit: 1646

Examiner: Unassigned

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application
as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1, and add the following new claims 23-77:

23. A process for the storage of a protein in an aqueous solution, comprising adding
an amount of cysteine effective to delay the temporal decrease in the effective
concentration of the protein during storage, wherein the effective concentration
does not decrease by more than about 7%.

24. The process as claimed in claim 23, wherein the effective concentration does not
decrease by more than about 3%.

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